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What is claimed is:

1. A method for detecting cardiac ischemia in an individual comprising measuring the level of a natriuretic peptide in a sample isolated from an individual and comparing said level to a control, wherein an increase in the level in the sample as compared to the control is indicative of cardiac ischemia in the individual.

2. The method of claim 1, wherein the natriuretic peptide is brain natriuretic peptide, N-terminal probrain natriuretic peptide, or a fragment thereof.

3. The method of claim 1, wherein the control is isolated from an individual before the individual has conducted an exercise test and the sample is isolated from the same individual after the individual has conducted an exercise test.